

Message Text

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43

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 021404Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2679

S E C R E T THE HAGUE 0014

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, ETRN, NL

SUBJ: ROTTERDAM TANKER ARRIVALS

REF: STATE 244172

1. DESPITE PERSONAL APPEAL BY ECON COUNSELOR TO MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS LUBBERS DURING DONALDSON VISIT AND FREQUENT PRODDINGS AT WORKING LEVEL, WE HAVE NOW BEEN INFORMED BY THE MINISTER THAT INFORMATION ON INDIVIDUAL TANKER ARRIVALS WILL NOT BE MADE AVAILABLE TO US. WE WILL, HOWEVER, BE GIVEN WEEKLY FIGURES ON TOTAL INFLOW OF CRUDE AND PRODUCT BROKEN DOWN AS BETWEEN GOODS IN TRANSIT AND FOR PROCESSING HERE. WE EXPECT FIRST WEEKLY REPORT JANUARY 4 AND WILL CABLE FIGURES FOR WHATEVER USE THEY MAY BE TO WASHINGTON AGENCIES.

2. GON REFUSAL TO SUPPLY TANKER FIGURES WAS OBVIOUSLY TAKEN ONLY AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION AND OUR DUTCH CONTACTS APPEAR SOMEWHAT EMBARRASSED BY MINISTER'S REFUSAL TO GRANT USG REQUEST FOR INFORMATION SO SOON AFTER DONALDSON VISIT. DENIAL OF OUR REQUEST REFLECTS GROWING SECRECY WITHIN GON AND IN ITS DEALINGS WITH THE PUBLIC CONCERNING TANKER AND OIL MOVEMENTS. IMPORT AND EXPORT FIGURES ON ON PETROLEUM HAVE BEEN DELETED FROM PUBLISHED STATISTICS. TANKER MOVEMENTS ARE NO LONGER CARRIED IN ROTTERDAM SHIPPING BULLETIN. PURPOSE
SECRET

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OF THIS SECRECY APPEARS TWO FOLD: (1) TO PREVENT OAEPC COUNTRIES FROM LEARNING ABOUT POSSIBLE DIVERSION OF OIL TO NETHS IN VIOLATION OF THEIR EMBARGO AND (2) TO PREVENT PROTEST FROM GENERAL PUBLIC AND INDUSTRY ABOUT CONSUMPTION

RESTRAINTS IN THE LIGHT OF CRUDE ARRIVALS THAT MAY SEEM
LARGER THAN EXPECTED.

3. WE ARE PURSUING POSSIBILITY OF OBTAINING REQUESTED
INFORMATION THROUGH OTHER CHANNELS.
BLODGETT

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

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